



MI-CW3408

Michigan Crop Weather

August 25, 2008

More Rain Needed

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 24, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.21 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 1.29 inches in the northeastern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree above normal in the northeastern and east central Lower Peninsula to 5 degrees above normal in the southwestern Lower Peninsula. Temperatures were generally above normal and dry soils remained throughout most of the State. Rain did fall in some areas, but more was needed to improve crop condition. A farmer in the northwest Lower Peninsula reported, "We received one half inch of rain yesterday. It was needed very much, but we do need more. The cool nights will help to keep the soil damp longer." Rains were scattered and bypassed some growers. A farmer in the West Central region reported, "Another week has passed with only one tenth of an inch of rain. Crop conditions have gone downhill this week and any rain we receive now may be of questionable benefit. Very little additional third cutting of hay has been made in the hopes we will get some rain."

Field Crops

Growers were in need of moisture to assist in the development of crops. **Corn** continued in the dough stage. In some areas, the crop was doing well, but on lighter soils, it was under stress. **Soybean** leaves were beginning to turn, and the crop was in need of rain. Growers monitored fields for pests such as soybean aphids and spider mites. **Alfalfa** and other hay harvest continued at a slow pace. A short third cutting has been reported. There were reports that potato leafhopper numbers were high. **Dry beans** had mostly set pods and leaves were beginning to turn. Growers were preparing their **winter wheat** fields for planting in the fall. **Sugarbeet** stands were looking great. **Oat** harvest was all but complete.

Fruit

A sudden increase of leaf drop in some **apple** varieties in the Grand Rapids area was attributed to the recent dry period and considered a normal horticultural process. In the northwest, apples were coloring, but the lack of rain increased concerns regarding fruit size. Harvest of **apricots** continued in the west central. **Blueberry** harvest neared completion in the southeast, while harvest of late season varieties continued in the southwest; small, soft fruit was a problem. Concord **grapes** were changing color. In the west central, **peach** harvest was underway; bacterial leaf spot and x-disease symptoms were evident. Due to dry weather, firm and relatively sweet peaches were found in the southeast, as harvest of Red Haven and Starfire varieties was completed; bacterial spot symptoms were widespread. **Pears** continued to size well with low incidence of disease. Harvest of **plums** continued in the west central and southwest; bacterial canker symptoms were prevalent. In the southeast, European plums colored fairly well; a fair amount of brown rot infection was found. **Strawberry** re-growth was poor due to drought stress. **Tart cherry** harvest was completed in the northwest; quality was a challenge.

Vegetables

Continued warm temperatures and abnormally dry conditions across the State kept vegetable producers concerned with reductions in yield and crop quality, especially with late season cucurbits including **pumpkins**, **winter squash**, and **gourds**. Processing **tomato** harvest continued this week; some growers reported smaller fruits and lower than normal yields, even in irrigated fields. **Sweet corn** harvest was winding down this week, except on farms with adequate irrigation. **Potato** harvest was in full swing. Alternaria early blight symptoms have been found in Monroe County. Harvest of **carrots**, **peppers**, **onions**, **celery**, **watermelons**, and **muskmelons** continued, while **cabbage** and other cole crops continued to develop.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/24/08

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	39	27	33	1
Subsoil	31	30	38	1

Crop condition for week ending 08/24/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	8	17	29	38	8
Corn	11	11	28	34	16
Dry beans	4	3	23	56	14
Pasture	20	28	27	17	8
Soybeans	8	18	25	35	14

Crop progress for week ending 08/24/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	92	88	99	92
All hay, third cutting	41	39	48	44
Apples, harvested	5	NA	NA	NA
Blueberries, harvested	80	75	92	85
Corn, dough	75	66	79	66
Corn, dent	18	10	31	22
Dry beans, setting pods	96	75	99	97
Dry beans, turning leaves	25	3	17	28
Oats, harvested	94	74	99	91
Peaches, harvested	42	38	57	64
Potatoes, harvested	19	17	5	NA
Soybeans, setting pods	98	92	99	94
Soybeans, turning leaves	3	0	2	4

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/24/08¹

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation				
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2008	2007	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal
									Since April 1	For month	
Ironwood	84	46	Western UP	1,480	1,876	1,538	0.19	0.35	1.12	12.70	
Marquette	83	45		1,392	1,787		0.15	0.15	0.88	14.07	
Stephenson	86	42		1,758	1,980		0.30	0.76	1.98	15.01	
	86	36		1,516	1,865		0.21	0.37	1.16	12.73	15.39 3.69
Cornell	80	45	Eastern UP	1,608	1,923	1,342	0.46	0.46	1.20	13.09	
Sault St Marie	80	47		1,440	1,735		0.63	0.66	0.98	12.91	
	82	34		1,431	1,755		0.47	0.49	1.19	13.57	14.52 3.53
Beulah	85	54		1,887	2,061		0.34	0.43	1.79	17.39	
Lake City	84	40	Northwest	1,802	1,972	1,735	2.19	2.27	3.36	20.39	
Old Mission	87	51		1,817	1,967		0.55	0.55	0.61	10.75	
Pellston	84	39		1,720	1,900		1.13	1.13	1.93	14.73	
	87	39		1,756	1,935		0.95	1.01	1.67	14.83	13.58 3.11
Alpena	87	38	Northeast	1,789	1,948	1,683	0.27	0.27	1.23	14.27	
Houghton Lake	84	36		1,839	1,966		2.57	2.76	3.17	17.85	
Rogers City	85	41		1,736	1,990		1.14	1.40	2.17	17.03	
	87	36		1,790	1,950		1.29	1.63	2.41	16.43	13.68 3.12
Fremont	86	50	West Central	1,994	2,169	1,894	0.35	0.35	1.07	12.99	
Hart	85	51		1,882	2,064		0.09	0.09	1.13	15.16	
Muskegon	87	53		1,990	2,218		0.23	0.30	1.13	12.82	
	87	46		1,925	2,113		0.22	0.24	1.04	15.64	14.01 3.60
Alma	89	47	Central	2,096	2,269	1,966	1.27	1.27	2.66	11.06	
Big Rapids	86	45		2,008	2,040		0.82	0.94	1.95	13.00	
	89	45		2,031	2,148		0.93	1.08	2.46	11.82	14.93 3.64
Bad Axe	89	47		2,024	2,119		1.66	1.66	5.00	18.71	
Pigeon	89	42	East Central	1,941	2,031	1,957	0.99	0.99	2.34	11.89	
Saginaw	89	45		2,140	2,269		0.78	0.88	2.80	14.36	
Standish	88	41		1,904	2,034		1.08	1.58	2.93	14.98	
	90	41		1,980	2,117		1.22	1.41	3.34	14.64	13.48 2.93
Fennville	85	55	Southwest	2,011	2,197	2,125	0.02	0.02	0.88	17.46	
Grand Rapids	90	53		2,299	2,480		0.43	0.43	1.02	16.46	
Holland	87	55		2,298	2,402		0.04	0.04	0.81	18.07	
South Bend, IN	89	61		2,356	2,581		0.60	0.60	1.29	12.21	
Watervliet	88	55		2,165	2,373		0.41	0.44	1.24	15.16	
	90	47	South Central	2,185	2,362		0.34	0.37	1.06	16.54	15.53 3.18
Belding	88	47		2,046	2,176	2,099	0.80	1.05	1.71	11.32	
Coldwater	90	49		2,165	2,252		0.47	0.47	0.77	12.79	
Lansing	89	48		2,222	2,317		0.36	0.92	1.10	12.48	
	91	46		2,145	2,281		0.61	0.73	1.36	13.32	15.57 3.36
Detroit	93	54	Southeast	2,449	2,512	2,089	0.01	0.01	0.22	10.53	
Flint	91	43		2,265	2,282		0.78	0.78	2.00	12.58	
Romeo	92	47		2,145	2,214		0.49	0.69	2.08	12.69	
Tipton	92	53		2,202	2,271		0.12	0.12	0.28	16.15	
Toledo, OH	91	52		2,405	2,467		0.30	1.37	1.41	16.04	
	94	43		2,219	2,323		0.36	0.53	1.36	14.42	15.06 3.12

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.